

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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R 101748Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 222

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

USNATO 6183

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, GE, PFOR

SUBJ: COURTESY CALL ON FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO GDR

1. I CALLED ON FRENCH AMBASSADOR BERNARD DE CHALVRON
JANUARY 9. HE TOUCHED ON SEVERAL TOPICS OF CURRENT
INTEREST.

2. THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. CHALVRON SAID THAT
AT THE JANUARY 6 GDR NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION HE HAD BY
CHANCE OVERHEARD A CONVERSATION IN FRENCH AMONG MIDDLE
EAST AMBASSADORS. THE GIST WAS THAT THE SOVIETS
ALLEGEDLY ARE PLANNING A CEREMONY OF SOME KIND IN MAY
AT POTSDAM TO COMMEMORATE THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF GERMAN CAPITULATION. OBVIOUSLY, HE SAID, THIS WAS
INFORMATION OF THE CRUDEST KIND. IT DID, NEVERTHELESS,
RAISE THE QUESTION OF HOW THE ALLIED POWERS WOULD VIEW
A COMMEMORATION OF THIS EVENT ON GDR TERRITORY, RATHER
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THAN IN EAST BERLIN. WOULD THE US, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDER

ATTENDING A CEREMONY IN POTSDAM. I REPLIED THAT WE WERE UNITED IN OUR VIEW THAT SUCH A CELEBRATION IN EAST BERLIN WAS UNDESIRABLE. AS FAR AS AN EVENT OUTSIDE OF BERLIN WAS CONCERNED, I DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS U.S. POLICY TO PARTICIPATE, BUT WE WOULD AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS. CHALVRON EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF JOINT ALLIED ACTION IN SUCH MATTERS, AND I AGREED.

3. NEGOTIATION OF A CONSULAR AGREEMENT. CHALVRON WAS INTERESTED IN MY ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A US/GDR CONSULAR AGREEMENT. HE SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAD NOT YET BEGUN THIS EFFORT. THE BRITISH, HE STATED, WERE ALL BUT FINISHED. THE IMPORTANT QUESTION REMAINING CONCERNED THE DEFINITION OF GERMAN NATIONALITY, AND THE RELATION OF SUCH A DEFINITION OF FRG LAW. CHALVRON SAID THE GDR HAD DEVISED DIFFERING FORMULATIONS OF THE NATIONALITY QUESTION IN VARIOUS CONSULAR AGREEMENTS, IN SOME CASES-- AS WITH BLOCK COUNTRIES-- OMITTING THIS SECTION OF THE AGREEMENT ENTIRELY. HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT INDEED FOR ANY OF THE ALLIED POWERS TO ARRIVE AT A RESOLUTION OF THE GERMAN NATIONALITY QUESTION THAT WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO ALLIED CAPITALS, THE FRG AND THE GDR. THE FRENCH, HE SAID IN CONCLUSION, WERE IN NO HURRY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATING A CONSULAR AGREEMENT.

4. RELATIONS WITH THE GDR. CHALVRON SAID THE TWO MOST UNPLEASANT PEOPLE WITH WHOM HE HAD TO DEAL WERE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NIER. HE SAID FRENCH EXPERIENCE HAD SHOWN EAST GERMAN DIPLOMATIC STYLE TO BE SCRUPULOUS ADHERENCE TO WHAT THE GDR REGARDED AS "CORRECT" RELATIONS, BOTH IN TERMS OF SUBSTANCE AND FORM. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY APPARENT IN SOMEONE LIKE CHAIRMAN STOPH, WHO WAS AN AGREEABLE DISCUSSION PARTNER. THE FRENCH HAD SEEN QUITE A BIT OF DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER BEIL, WHO HAD VISITED PARIS THREE OR FOUR TIMES LAST YEAR.

5. COMMENT: I FOUND AMBASSADOR CHALVRON A FRIENDLY AND WELL INFORMED MAN. DYNAMIC IN PERSONAL STYLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE MOVED QUICKLY FROM ONE SUBJECT TO THE NEXT, SPEAKING RAPIDLY IN FRENCH, BUT REQUIRING NO INTERPRETATION OF ENGLISH RESPONSES. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE HOPED WITH MY ARRIVAL THE THREE ALLIED EMBASSIES WOULD REMAIN IN TOUCH IN EAST BERLIN ON TOPICS OF MUTUAL CONCERN, SUCH AS THE CELEBRATION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF GERMAN CAPITULATION. WHILE THERE WERE CLOSE TIES AMONG WESTERN EMBASSIES HERE, THE ALLIED

POWERS HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP. I AGREED. FROM
MY KNOWLEDGE OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR KEEBLE, I AM
CONFIDENT THAT THIS RELATIONSHIP WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT
TO FOSTER.COOPER

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